
APRIL
2024

THE HOWLER

At 5 Dogs

Latest News, Updates & More

5 Dogs
Creek
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CA 93390

2023-2024 Town

Council

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Territorial Governor:

Professor Cubby Bear
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The Mayor's Anvil: Forging Understanding By Mayor Fordyce Beals

Why were the plains buffalo harvested?

The vast buffalo herds of America were destroyed in a very short time by Americans with black powder cartridge rifles, culminating with the Sharps 1872 "Big Fifty" with a 550-grain lead bullet at 1448 feet per second- and

2561-foot pounds of energy. One explanation for this rapid destruction of the animals is posited below by:

M. Scott Taylor Working Paper 12969

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w12969>.

Like many events in history economics is a possible root cause. I excerpt his argument below.

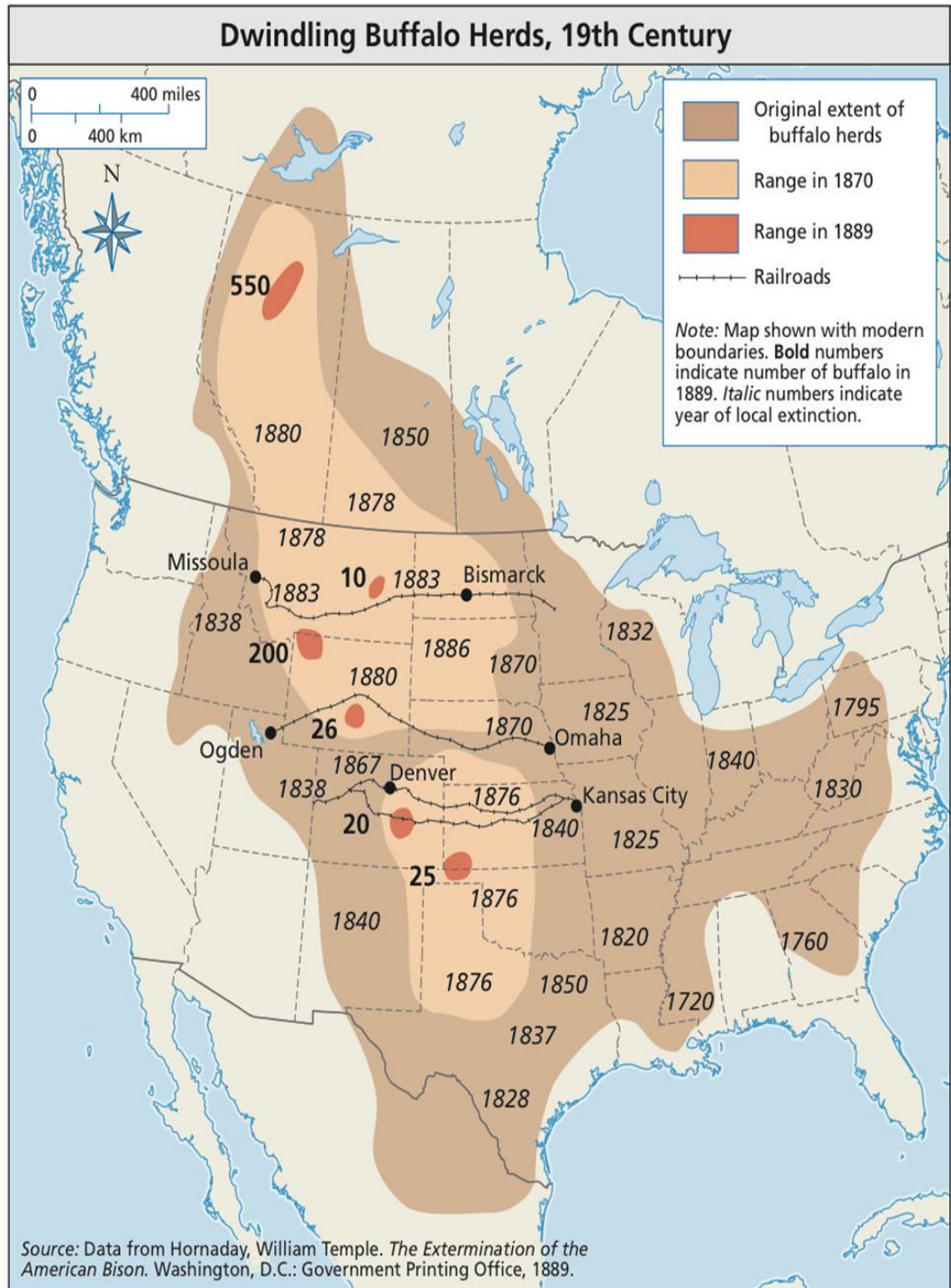
In the 16th century, North America contained 25-30 million buffalo: by the late 19th century less than 100 remained. While removing the buffalo east of the Mississippi took settlers over 100 years, the remaining 10 to 15 million buffalo on the Great Plains were killed in a punctuated slaughter in a little more than 10 years. I argue that the slaughter on the plains was initiated by a foreign-made innovation: a newly invented tanning process and fueled by a foreign demand for industrial leather. Ironically, the ultimate cause of this sad chapter in American environmental history was of European, and not American, origin.

The purpose of this paper was to investigate the slaughter of the plains buffalo in the 19th century using a combination of theory, empirics, and Firsthand accounts of buffalo hunters. I have presented an explanation for the slaughter that is not conventional. While hide hunting, the U.S. Army, native over hunting and the Railroads are typically held responsible for the slaughter, the role of international trade has featured minimally if at all. Instead, I have argued that free trade in buffalo hides was critical to the explosion of activity on the plains in the 1870s. By employing insights from theory, I have pieced together statistical evidence from numerous countries, diary and newspaper accounts, and logic to present a largely circumstantial, but hopefully compelling case that the plains buffalo was not eliminated by the usual suspects - it was instead the victim of global markets and technological progress. The introduction to this paper claimed that (1) a price for buffalo products that was largely invariant to changes in supply; (2) open access conditions with no regulation of the buffalo kill; and (3), a newly invented tanning process that made buffalo hides into valuable commercial leather were jointly necessary and sufficient for the slaughter on the Great Plains. The theoretical results demonstrate that the combination of a tanning innovation, open access to buffalo hunting, and fixed world prices delivers a punctuated slaughter that matches that witnessed on the Great Plains. I take this as proof of sufficiency. I have also demonstrated that slaughter can only be generated when demand is very elastic. This establishes the necessity of a market price that is "largely invariant" to changes in supply. The tanning innovation was proven to be necessary by the absence of the slaughter during the five years prior to 1872 when the Union Pacific had reached the heart of buffalo country. And the necessity of open access for the slaughter is proven by numerous private parties who found buffalo to be such a valuable resource that they established property rights on their own by capturing and then breeding live buffalo. Several entrepreneurial ranchers in the 1870s and 1880s established private herds that, until federal legislation arrived in the mid-1890s, probably saved the buffalo from extinction. It is somewhat ironic, that what must be the saddest chapter in U.S. environmental history was not written by Americans; it was instead, the work of Europeans. Europe in the 19th century was a high-income developed region, while America was a young developing country recently rocked by a bloody civil war caused by racial strife. In the 1870s, America was a large resource exporter with little or no environmental regulation while Europe was a high-income consumer of U.S. resource products

apparently indifferent to the impact their consumption had on America's natural resources. Written in this way it is apparent that the story of the buffalo has as much relevance today as it did 130 years ago. Many developing countries in the world today are heavily reliant on resource exports, are struggling with active or recently past civil wars fueled by racial strife, and few, if any, have stringent regulations governing resource use. The slaughter on the plains tells us that waiting for development to foster better environmental protection can be a risky proposition: in just a few short years, international markets and demand from high income countries can destroy resources that otherwise would have taken centuries to deplete.



A pile of about 40,000 buffalo hides at Wright's Buffalo Hide Yard in Dodge City, Kansas 1878 ready to be traded.



© Infobase Publishing

Note that the bold faced numbers are the buffalo surviving in 1889, about 800 of the 25,000,000 to 30,000,000 original herd.



A wall made of buffalo skulls with a boy posing in front, for scale. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, 1890

Fordyce's Comment:

25,000,000 to 30,000,000 500 grain lead bullets are about 1,700,000 pounds of lead. Bullets that did not exit the buffalo were recycled so the real total of lead is much less.

Monthly **Shooting Schedule:**

Office opens at 8:00
Shooter's meeting 8:30

Saturday, APRIL 6
9:00 a.m.

Sunday, APRIL 7
9:00 a.m.



2024 MATCH **CALENDAR**

APR 6-7

MAY 4-5

JUN 1-2

JUL 6-7

AUG 3-4

AUG 31-

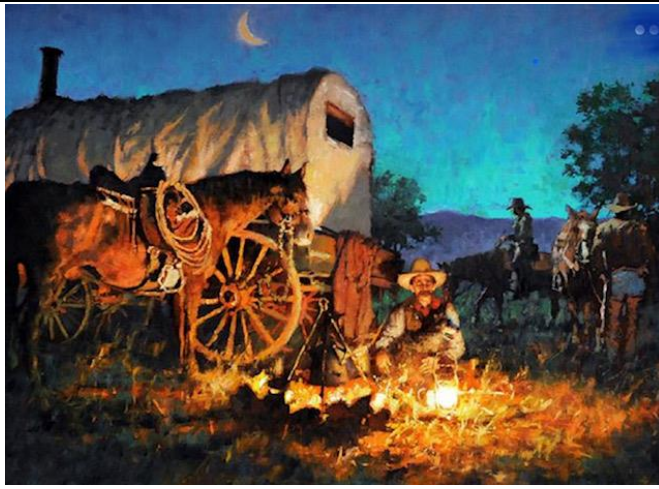
SEP 1

OCT 5-6

NOV 30-

DEC 1

COME JOIN US FOR SOME CAMPING FUN!



Friday Evening, (5:30-ish): Bring your favorite campfire appetizer to share.

Saturday Evening, (6:00-ish): 5 Dogs Potluck. (Bring your favorite dish to share.)

(Plates & utensils provided)

THE MARCH MATCH

Saturday – Rained Out

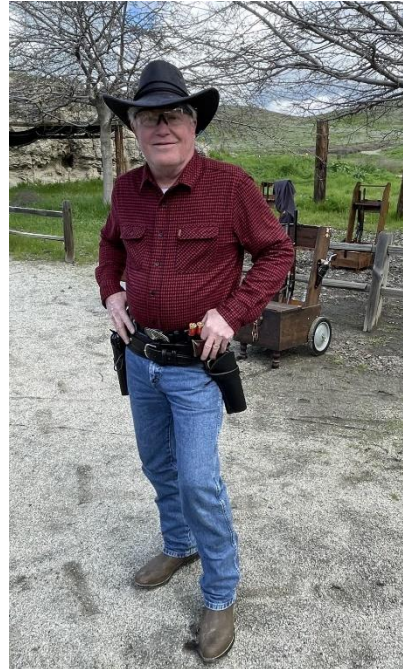


Sunday Clean Shooters



LAP DOG & PROFESSOR CUBBY BEAR

The “Pot o’ Gold” goes to **First Match Shooter**



White River Jack

SOME SUNDAY MATCH SNAPS

Compliments of "Hildie"



Thank You, Hildie. Come and visit us again real soon!

MORE SUNDAY SNAPS



(Thank You, Utah Blaine)

THE SUNDAY POSSE



(Thank You, Lap Dog!)

RANGE WRANGLER NEWS

I recently looked up “Range Wrangler” on the internet and discovered two uses of the word, nothing related to what I understand the Range Wrangler responsibilities to be at 5 Dogs Creek. The first range wrangler information I found had to do with cowboys and cattle. Here are four photos, the first two of cowboys in the old west and the second of cowboys in the new west. This is followed by fact and myth about old west working cowboys and next is the SASS answer to “How do I become a Range Wrangler?” Enjoy.





In the **Old West**, the life of a **working cowboy** on the open range during cattle drives was far from the romanticized image often portrayed in movies and novels. Let's separate fact from fiction about the life of these rugged cowhands:

1. **Cattle Raising Origins:**

- **Fact:** Cattle ranching was introduced by the Spaniards in colonized Mexico during the 1500s. Mexican vaqueros (cowboys) drove cattle to Texas and New Mexico.
- **Myth:** Working cowboys always carried firearms for gunfights. In reality, they carried guns for protection against predators, bandits, and hostile Indians.

2. Teamwork and Hard Work:

- **Fact:** Cattle drives involved teamwork. A typical drive with a herd of 3,000 had 8 to 12 cowboys, **wranglers** [my emphasis], a trail boss, an assistant, and a camp cook.
- **Myth:** Cowboys worked alone, riding leisurely across open plains. In truth, they were on the saddle from dawn until sundown, ensuring the herd's safety from predators and rustlers.

3. Skills and Risks:

- **Fact:** Cowboys mastered the art of roping (lassoing) to manage and control livestock during long drives.
- **Myth:** They were trained sharpshooters. Instead, their primary skill was handling the lasso.
- **Fact:** Cowboys risked their lives during cattle drives, especially during stampedes.

So, the life of a working cowboy was filled with hard work, long hours, and constant vigilance. They weren't just riding into the sunset; they were ensuring the survival of the cattle industry and the supply of beef up North.

How do I become a SASS Range Wrangler?

To become a **Range Wrangler** in the **Single Action Shooting Society (SASS)**, follow these steps:

1. Understand the Role:

- Familiarize yourself with the responsibilities of a Range Wrangler. They play a crucial role in ensuring safety and adherence to SASS rules during Cowboy Action Shooting™ events.

2. Participate in SASS Events:

- Attend SASS matches and events regularly. Engage with other shooters, range officers, and organizers.
- Observe how Range Wranglers operate during matches. Learn from their expertise.

3. Safety Training:

- Complete the **Range Operations Safety Course**. This program covers safety rules, range management, and SASS-specific guidelines.
- Consider becoming a **Certified Instructor** to help educate others on safety protocols.

4. Gain Experience:

- Volunteer as a range officer during matches. Assist with safety checks, stage setup, and scoring.
- Learn about match logistics, stage design, and competitor interactions.

5. Network and Learn:

- Connect with experienced Range Wranglers and ask for advice.
- Attend SASS conventions, workshops, and seminars to expand your knowledge.

6. Apply for Regional Chief Range Officer (RCRO):

- RCROs oversee safety programs within specific SASS regions.
- Demonstrate your commitment to safety and knowledge of SASS rules.
- If appointed, you'll mentor other range officers and contribute to safety initiatives.

7. Stay Updated:

- Keep up with SASS updates, rule changes, and safety protocols.
- Continuously improve your skills and knowledge.

Remember, safety is paramount, and the Range Wrangler role requires dedication and a passion for Cowboy Action Shooting™. Good luck on your quest.



Utah Blaine

THE SHERIFF'S LOG



Howdy All,

Well...spring is here as are the flowers, leaves in the trees, the baby bunnies, and the weeds. I haven't been to the range lately, but I can imagine the weeds are having a field day! Since spring is here, perhaps that means our rained-out shoots are over. The March match saw a rained-out Saturday, and there was no way we could have shot that morning. Sunday saw 18 hardy souls, some coming from Paso Robles and Lemoore, and Mother Nature cooperated. It was a great match; the stage scenarios were designed by Fordyce Beals who does a great job as a stage writer. White River Jack shot his first cowboy match on Sunday, and he was grinning from ear to ear. Congratulations White River Jack and hope that this was just the start of many more matches!

The stage writer for the April match is Chick Ma. Her stages on Saturday are designed to get everyone ready for The Shootout at Fort Miller and the Sunday stages are a warmup for the California State Championship. Getting ready for those two matches by shooting at 5 Dogs Creek sounds like a great idea so come join us.

As a reminder, if you haven't signed up for The Shootout at Fort Miller (Kings River Regulators) or the California State match (Cajon Cowboys) go online and find out if they still have room, they are both great matches.

Friday night appetizers at the range are back in April. This is a casual gathering with appetizers to share and to catch up with everyone who wants to join in. The fun starts at 5:30 and if it's cold enough there will be a fire. Might be a fire just for fun!

Saturday night potluck will also be held, time to be determined as that often depends on how the game of 'Mexican train' dominos is going.

Finally, there will be a Town Council meeting after the shoot on Saturday for the members of the Town Council to vote on the changes to the Bylaws as well as some other items on the agenda. If the changes are approved, they will be sent to club members for review and changes. It's a process but we are getting there.

See you on the range,
Lap Dog

Territorial Governor's News:



Professor Cubby Bear

The Professor's wise words of wisdom here soon.

DON'T MISS THIS!



2024 Applications will be posted

on the Bordertown Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/bordertown2017

and on the Bordertown website at www.BORDERTOWNCAS.COM

No Later than NOON (Tucson Time)

MARCH 24, 2024

**The 2023 Bordertown Board of Directors
wishes to thank all of the shooters!**

It's the shooters that help to make Bordertown such a great match.
We hope you enjoyed your time here as much as we enjoyed having you with us.

Last but not least a HUGE Thank you
to all of the folks who volunteered their time and energy to help put this match together.
We truly couldn't have done this without you!



**See all of you next year at
BORDERTOWN 24 OCTOBER 22-27, 2024**

SOME COWBOY HAT NOTES:

